

May 31, 1223

MONGOLS

For almost 10 days before the KALKA River battle (north of Sea of Azov) on May 31, 1223, more than 20,000 invading Mongols feigned retreat before a Russian force of 80,000 men. At the KALKA R. the Mongols reformed their ranks. After pursuing the Mongols for days, the exhausted Russian troops were spread out along a 20-mile line. The Mongols charged with 5,000 mounted archers in the lead

once the leading Russian detachments were separated from their support columns and thrown into disorder, 5,000 heavy cavalry troops engaged them in close combat.

10,000 light Cavalry troops followed the retreating Russians capturing or slaughtering most of them.

1223

Mongols conquered Kiev

1223

Genghis Khan invaded Russia

1223 Papacy Approves Franciscan Order

In 1209, Francis of Assisi, the son of a rich Umbrian merchant, was attending mass when the message of the Gospel persuaded him to take up a life of lay preaching; he cast aside worldly ambition, embraced poverty, and began to wander among the sick & needy, bringing them spiritual comfort and what material benefit he was able to offer. He collected a group of friends around him but established no formal

orders, fearing the Franciscans' freedom to preach without local episcopal sanction, opposed them, the order flourished. It remains the greatest order in the field of missionary work among the poor.

(He preached to the birds. He regarded all God's creatures as his fellows and called the sun brother.)

1223

Reaching the Caspian: General Jele & Subot
Subedee: with 30,000 men; vanquished
two armies in Georgia (Russia) and,
crossing the Caucasus Mts (in winter
defeated a coalition of Turkic tribes on the
Russian steppe. As they plundered
the countryside, alarm spread through
the Russian principalities - not yet
united - of Kiev, Chernigov, Galicia,

Rostov, and Suzdal. The prince assembled an
army of 80,000 that challenged the Mongols (20,000)
on the Kalka River in 1223. Mongol archers
rode before the enemy, filling the air with
arrows. Some of the princes charged hastily, only
to see the archers vanish into smoke as the
Mongols lit fires of dung & naphtha. The
smoke hid cavalry, men brandishing lance and
sword & axes. Parts of the Russian force turned
in confusion, colliding with others and the rout
began. Jube & Subedei swept east to
the Volga, fought 2 more battles & finally joining
by conquest! they entered the Caspian in one of greatest Cavalry
of all time (8,000 miles)

1223-1226

1912 Dates J-BK

France

Louis VIII was King.

Fresh attack against the count
of Toulouse whose lands had
been declared forfeit.

Waldemar II of Denmark and his son were captured by Henry, Count of SCHWERIN and imprisoned for 3 yrs in the Castle of DANDE BORG, HANOVER.